PATENT COOPERATION TREAT



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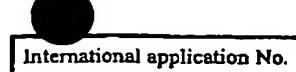
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference VJ3-02085PCT	FOR FURTHER ACTION	· -	cation of Transmittal of International Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)
International application No.	International filing date (day	/month/year)	Priority date (day/month/year)
PCT/FR2003/001854	18 juin 2003 (18.0	6.2003)	24 juin 2002 (24.06.2002)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or n F16L 59/02	ational classification and IPC		
Applicant	SAINT-GOBAIN I	SOVER	
1. This international preliminary examinated and is transmitted to the applicant ac	ination report has been prepare ecording to Article 36.	ed by this Intern	national Preliminary Examining Authority
2. This REPORT consists of a total of	. 6 sheets, include	ling this cover s	heet.
amended and are the basis fo	ied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets r this report and/or sheets cont Administrative Instructions u	aining rectifica	on, claims and/or drawings which have been tions made before this Authority (see Rule
These annexes consist of a to	stal of sheets.		
3. This report contains indications rela	ting to the following items:		
I Basis of the report			·
II Priority			
III Non-establishment	of opinion with regard to nove	lty, inventive st	ep and industrial applicability
IV Lack of unity of inv	ention		
V Reasoned statement citations and explan	under Article 35(2) with regardations supporting such statement	rd to novelty, in	ventive step or industrial applicability;
VI Certain documents of			
	ne international application		
	s on the international applicati	on	•
Date of submission of the demand	Date	of completion	
19 août 2003 (19.08.2	2003)	10 Se	ptember 2004 (10.09.2004)
Name and mailing address of the IPBA/EP	Auth	orized officer	
Facsimile No.	Tele	phone No.	•

Form PCT/IPEA/409 (cover sheet) (July 1998)

Translation



PCT/FR2003/001854

L Basis	of the re	eport	
1. With	regard to	the elements of the international application:*	
\boxtimes	the inte	mational application as originally filed	
$\overline{\boxtimes}$	the desi	cription:	
	pages	1-19	, as originally filed
	pages		, filed with the demand
	pages	, filed with the letter of	
\square	the clai	mc.	
	pages	1-20	, as originally filed
	pages	as amond at the mother	with any statement under Article 19
	pages		, filed with the demand
	pages	, filed with the letter of	——————————————————————————————————————
	the drav	wings: 1/9-9/9	, as originally filed
	pages		filed with the demand
	pages pages	, filed with the letter of	
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	the seque	ence listing part of the description:	
	pages		, as originally filed
	pages		, filed with the demand
	pages	, filed with the letter of	
the i	nternation se elemen the lan	o the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to the nal application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item. Its were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language guage of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Ruguage of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)). Insulate of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary in the following language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary in the following language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary in the following language.	which is:
3. With preliment	iminary en contain	to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the internat xamination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing: ned in the international application in written form. See ther with the international application in computer readable form.	tional application, the international
		ed subsequently to this Authority in written form.	•
		ed subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.	
	The st	atement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not tional application as filed has been furnished.	go beyond the disclosure in the
		atement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical imished.	to the written sequence listing has
4.	The arr	nendments have resulted in the cancellation of:	
		the description, pages	
•		the claims, Nos.	
		the drawings, sheets/fig	
5.	This ren	port has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, sinthe disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**	nce they have been considered to go
in d	acement s his report 70.17).	sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invita t as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do no	ntion under Article 14 are referred to ot contain amendments (Rule 70.16
	-	ent sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and anne	xed to this report.

Internal application No.
PCT/FR 03/01854

v.	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to	novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;
	citations and explanations supporting such statement	

Statement			
Novelty (N)	Claims	1-16	YES
	Claims	17-20	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-16	YES
	Claims	17-20	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-20	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations

Reference is made to the following documents:

D1: FR 2 740 804 A (SAINT GOBAIN ISOVER) 9 May 1997 (1997-05-09)

D2: DE 11 90 391 B (GEWERK EISENHUETTE WESTFALIA) 1 April 1965 (1965-04-01)

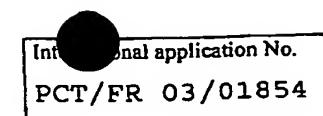
D3: US 4 064 627 A (VINCENT ZANFINI) 27 December 1977 (1977-12-27)

D4: US 4 064 626 A (MESHULAM ET AL) 27 December 1977 (1977-12-27)

Documents D3 and D4 have not been cited in the international search report.

Document D1, which is considered the prior art closest to the subject matter of claim 1, describes (references between parentheses apply to said document) an insulating panel (see page 1, lines 19-25) comprising at least one insulating mineral wool core (6) and an outer aluminium-based layer (1).

Consequently, the insulating panel of claim 1 differs from this known insulating panel in that it has, on an outer surface thereof, a plurality of rectilinear markings,



angled relative to the longitudinal direction of said panel, said markings forming two opposite-angled arrays, arranged at an angle γ relative to the longitudinal direction.

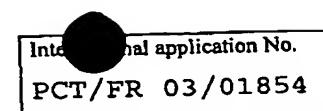
The subject matter of claim 1 is therefore novel (PCT Article 33(2)).

The problem that the present invention aims to solve can therefore be considered to be that of changing more easily the orientation of a conditioned air distribution conduit consisting of a plurality of insulating panels.

The solution to said problem, as proposed in claim 1 of the present application, is considered to involve an inventive step (PCT Article 33(3)) for the following reasons:

- a plurality of rectilinear and angled markings on a panel, which markings form two opposite-angled arrays arranged at an angle γ relative to the longitudinal direction of said panel, is already known (see document D2, column 2, lines 40-47):
- contrary to claim 1, the rectilinear and angled markings according to document D2 are not used to facilitate cutting of the panel along the marking lines, but are the result of a manufacturing method intended to reduce the weight of the panel.

In view of the above points, it is obvious that incorporating markings as per document D2 in an insulating panel as per document D1 goes beyond the standard technical measures that a person skilled in the art might apply to solve the stated problem. The other prior art



documents do not suggest the solution proposed by claim 1 either.

The solution to said problem, as proposed in claim 1, and the conduit according to claim 8 as well as the method for producing same as per claim 10 meet the requirements of novelty and inventive step of the PCT.

Claims 2-7, 9 and 11-16 are dependent on claim 1 and therefore also meet, as such, the requirements of novelty and inventive step of the PCT.

Document D3 describes (references between parentheses apply to said document) a cutting implement (see figure 2) with two blades (16, 18) located in a single plane, the cutting edges of each of said blades (16, 18) being respectively arranged at opposite angles and the first cutting edge being of a lesser height than the second cutting edge, as seen in the general cutting direction (see claims 2 to 3).

The subject matter of claim 17 does not therefore comply with the criterion of novelty (PCT Article 33(2)).

Dependent claims 18-20 do not contain any feature which, in combination with those of any of the claims to which they refer, defines subject matter that meets the PCT requirements with respect to novelty and/or inventive step (see document D3, figure 2 and document D4, column 3, lines 2-21).